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UCF Cocoa & Palm Bay Newsletter

Cocoa / Palm Bay Campus

2014

UCF Cocoa & Palm Bay Newsletter Spring 2014

Megan M. Haught

Univeristy of Central Florida, megan.haught@ucf.edu



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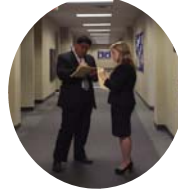
Spring 2014

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A Tale of Two Competitions: UCF Speech Team

For the first time, Florida Intercollegiate Forensics Association (FIFA) annual state championship tournament was hosted on a UCF campus on February 21-23 where over 80 college students competed in public speaking events ranging from parliamentary debate to the dramatic interpretation of literature.



This year's tournament featured twelve Florida colleges and universities: UF, FSU, UWF, UCF, FSCJ, Rollins College, Miami Dade College, TCC, Polk State College, Pasco Hernando State College, Florida Southern College, and Southeastern University. The students competed in platform events, such as persuasive speaking, informative speaking and after dinner speaking, limited preparation events, such as impromptu speaking, interpretation of poetry, prose, and drama, and two forms of debate.

The Speech Team, directed by **Jerry Sublette** and supported by the Nicholson School of Communication, acted as host for the tournament. In addition, two Orlando-based Communication professors, **Joan McCain** and **Lindsey Hudock**, and two Communication

graduate students, **Natalie Yrissary** and **Kate O'Neal**, acted as judges during the tournament along with regional campuses faculty and staff members **Barbara Alderman**, **Barbara Kyle**, **John King**, **Jim Smith**, **Susan Collins**, and **Anne Trelstad**. EFSC professors **Monica Hixson**, **Paul Spanpanato**, **Chris Muro**, and **Anthony Spero** were also judges

The Southern Region administrative team and Jerry Sublette planned during the year leading up to the tournament. Eastern Florida State College supported the tournament with full security and maintenance services.

FSU won the sweepstakes award and is this year's state champion. The University of Florida was second and Tallahassee Community College was third.



And how did UCF do? **Zavia Menning**, Communication major, placed fourth in Dramatic Interpretation and, **Hunter Menning**, Business major, was recognized as the top non-advancing novice in Prose Interpretation.

Southern Region Hosts Psychology Research Conference

The UCF Palm Bay Chapter of Psi Chi hosted a Undergraduate Psychology Conference where 66 students representing Eastern Florida State College, Stetson University, Florida Institute of Technology, UCF Palm Bay, UCF Cocoa, UCF Daytona, UCF Orlando, UCF Valencia West, and UCF Institute of Simulation and Training presented 25 posters. \$100 awards were given to the best poster in each category. Dr. Maria Lavooy, current President of Psi Chi International and former UCF Cocoa & Palm Bay professor, was the keynote speaker.



Winners for Research Poster Presentations were:

First Place: **Jenna Seward**, Florida Institute of Technology, *Video Games and Violent Crime* Honorable Mention: **Samantha Warta**, Stetson University, *Perceptual and Social Factors in Human-Robot Interactions* and **Jessy Guler**, UCF Daytona, *Identity Development in Adolescent Refugees*.

Winners for the Academic Resources Category were:

First Place: **Jennifer Beltran** and **Cassandra Rall**, UCF Orlando, *Peer Advising Undergraduate Psychology Students*

Honorable Mention: **Tracey Planinz**, UCF Palm Bay, *Exploring Careers in Psychology*.

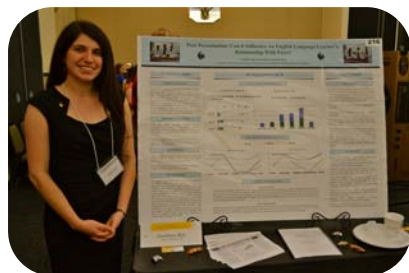
The first place winners for Scholarship Excellence category were **Laura Weinberger** and **Robin Thorne**, UCF Palm Bay, *Why I Love Physiological Psychology*.

Four faculty members at the UCF Cocoa & Palm Bay campuses mentored students who presented at the Showcase for Undergraduate Research Excellence at the Orlando campus in April.

Dr. Karen Mottarella, Psychology, mentored four student groups who presented: **Alexandra McConnell** presented *The C.S.I. Effect: Exploration of its Influence on Perception of Criminal Behavior*. **Lindsey Whitacre** presented *Exploration of Female College Students' Interest in STEM and the Big Five Personality Factor*. **Robin Thorne**, **Kim Loeak** & **Ronald Farah** presented *What Today's Anniversary Cards Reveal About Gender Role Stereotypes In Our Culture*. **Dennis Turner** and **Riley King** presented *Pink or Blue: Gender Stereotypes in Birth Congratulations Card*.



Dr. Shannon Whitten, Psychology, mentored a research team based on the Palm Bay campus composed of **John Clay Doyle**, **Michelle Esposito**, **Jenna Wilson**, **Racheal Wells**, **Vincent Iula**, and **Laura Weinberger** who presented *Looking into an Open Mind: The Relationship between Creativity and Figurative Language Use*.



Dr. Dan Ezell, Education, mentored **Courtney Roy** who presented, *Peer Presentation: Can It Influence An English Language Learner's Relationship With Peers?*



Dr. Grace White, Psychology, mentored **Rebecca Stanley**, **Erin Hudgens**, and **Tiffany Lewis** who presented *Personality, Sex and Lies: Dishonesty in Relationships Among Dating Individuals*.

SURE Results for Cocoa & Palm Bay



First place in Social Sciences II

Alexandra McConnell for her Honors in the Major thesis, *Learning How to Get Away with Murder: The C.S.I. Effect and its Influence on Criminal Behavior*,



Honorable Mention in Social Sciences I

Jennifer Wilson, **Vincent Iula**, **John Doyle**, **Rachael Wells**, **Laura Weinberger**, and **Michelle Esposito** with *Looking into an Open Mind: The Relationship between Creativity and Figurative Language Use*.



Honorable Mention in Social Sciences III

Courtney Roy for her thesis, *Peer Presentation: Can It Influence An English Language Learner's Relationship With Peers?*

Barbara Alderman, Librarian, helped organize and participated in the Library Association of Brevard's Annual Fall Continuing Education Workshop at the EFSC Melbourne campus. The topic was "Seasons Change: Dealing with Transition in Libraries."

Nancy Brasel, Education, presented "Exploring Authentically Culturally Diverse Children's Literature" at the 14th Annual Literacy Symposium.

Dr. Barbara Kinsey, Political Science, presented a co-authored paper, "Candidates of Immigrant Origin on Party Lists: Right Parties in Belgium" at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference in Chicago.

David Koenig, Legal Studies, was appointed to serve on the Brevard County Circuit Court by Governor Scott.

Dr. Jacqueline LaManna, Nursing, was named one of Purdue University's Golden Graduates and also received the College of Nursing Top Dissertation award.

Dr. Florin Mihai, Modern Languages, co-presented "Five Strategies for The Top-Five Errors in Advanced English as a Second Language Composition" at the TESOL International Convention and Language Expo in Portland.

Dr. Denise Young was selected as one of the women making history at UCF for UCF's Women's History Month. An interview with her is featured on the Center for Success of Women Faculty page: <https://womenfaculty.afia.ucf.edu/profile/denise-young-2/>

Leandra Preson-Sidler, Women's Studies, was granted promotion to Associate Instructor and won an Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award.

Dr. Karri Williams, Education, celebrated 30 years of service with UCF.

Dr. Denise Young, Dr. Lauren Miller, and Dr. Karen Mottarella, along with students **Natalie Eckert, Michelle Mulak, and Rebecca Stanley**, were featured in a Brevard Business News article on combining online and face-to-face learning to expand opportunities and reduce completion time of degrees for local students.

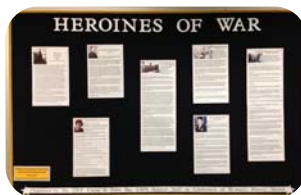
Dr. Denise Young, Dr. Lauren Miller, Sheryl Schagen and Kim Poppert attended the 8th Annual College Access Summit hosted by Regional Campuses at the Valencia West Campus.



The UCF Cocoa & Palm Bay campuses would like to thank **Dr. David Butterfield**, Business, and **Carla Parsons**, Communication Sciences and Disorders, as they retire at the end of the 2013-14 academic year. Thank you both for your dedication and uncompromising commitment to quality and service to the UCF community. A retirement party was held on the last day of the semester to bid them farewell.



The Cocoa & Palm Bay USPS Support Staff, as part of diversity efforts on campus, organized 3 bulletin boards and a film screening/discussion session facilitated by **Leandra Preston-Sidler**, Women's Studies, to celebrate Women's History Month. The staff will also coordinate boards/events for other areas such as LGBT Pride Month, Military Spouses Month and UCF Diversity Month.



Angel Edgecombe attended the Emotional Intelligence training session, and the Information Fluency Conference: The Age of New Media: Literacy in the 21st Century.

Jessica Houts completed Interview Certification training and the Supervisory Skills Series.

Congratulations, Felipe! **Felipe Mendez** graduated from UCF in May with his Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology.



Dr. Lauren Miller and **Dr. Denise Young** attended the EFSC Safety Awareness Workshop that provided staff and faculty tips on spotting suspicious behavior and gave demonstrations of aggressive/disruptive student conduct and how to de-escalate them. Presenters included Jack Parker, AVP of EFSC Public Safety and Security, Barbara Kennedy, EFSC Academic Dean and Licensed Mental Health Counselor. Wayne Ivey, the Brevard County Sheriff presented.

Nick Pantloni and **Jessica Houts** completed *Actions to Prevent Discrimination*. Nick Pantloni also completed *Qualtrics Survey Training*.

Training and Enrichment offered in Cocoa & Palm Bay

Women's History Month, "Iron-Jawed Angels:"

6 attended

Beyond the ADA: Inclusive Policy and Practice for Students with Disabilities in Higher Education:

10 attended

Spring DiversiTea: 17 attended

Temple Grandin "Different Not Less:" 14 attended

Angel Edgecombe attended many events at both UCF and EFSC during Black History Month including the 19th Annual Joseph C. Andrews Mentoring Breakfast, The Walk on Washington at Eastern Florida State College, James Weldon Lecture Series, EFSC Titusville Campus Soul Food Regale which included a presentation of the Fannie Lou Hamer Story, a lecture by Hill Harper, Women of the Movement: Honoring the Dream, and History of the African American Protest through songs from the 1960s-80s.

Dr. Lauren Miller represented the Cocoa and Palm Bay campuses at LEAD Brevard's Leadership Awards featuring Four Under Forty recognition, the Ketcham Leadership Icon Award, and the Distinguished Alumni Award. The UCF Cocoa and Palm Bay campuses are part of a consortium of higher education sponsors with Eastern Florida State College and Florida Institute of Technology.



Southern Region Administration

- continued collaboration with EFSC through attendance at the following:
 - EFSC Student Services Council Meetings
 - EFSC Provost/Executive Council Meetings
 - EFSC BOT Meetings
 - the EFSC Faculty Development Roll Out Session
 - Meetings with Dr. Linda Miedema, VP for Academic Affairs and Chief Learning Officer
 - EFSC Public Safety Institute Ground Breaking Ceremony, EFSC Melbourne Campus
- Continued to be involved with the CareerSource Brevard (formerly Brevard Workforce Development Board) through attendance at
 - quarterly Business Workforce Committee Meeting
 - quarterly Board of Directors Meeting
- Continued involvement with the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast through attendance at
 - quarterly Board of Directors Meeting
 - January EDC Investor Update Meeting
- Continued community involvement through attendance at:
 - FIT President's Black Tie Ball
 - January Florida Legislative Session Preview held in Melbourne
 - Center for Advancement of Science in Space (CASIS) and Florida Tech event where key community leaders, leaders of academic institutions and CASIS staff outlined the benefits, available opportunities and how to get your research onboard humankind's greatest technical platform: the International Space Station.
 - 7th Annual Women's History Month Luncheon "Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment" sponsored by Florida Institute of

Technology, the Florida Institute of Technology Women's Business Center, Florida Institute of Technology Alumni Association and the Zonta Club of Melbourne

- Served as a "Conversation Leader" at Lead Brevard's ACCESS 2014 which offered participants a unique opportunity to network with community marquee business leaders.

- Dr. Denise Young served on a SASCOC Substantive Change Committee.
- Dr. Denise Young and Sarah Faehnle of UCF Continuing Education attended the "Space Coast Human Resources Conference" in Melbourne. The conference is a collaboration of The South Brevard Society for Human Resource Management Inc. (SBSHRM) and the Space Coast Human Resource Association Inc. (SCHRA) located in Brevard County to present a conference for the benefit of local business professionals. While SBSHRM and SCHRA are Human Resource professional organizations, these conferences are not only intended for our chapter members but also for business owners, managers, and supervisors.



College of Health and Public Affairs



As part of **Dr. Deborah Rhyne's** efforts to bring "real world Criminal Justice experience" into the classroom, she brought in a series of guests to

co-teach meetings of her Criminal Justice Ethics course. Recent guests include State Attorney Phil Archer and Public Defender Blaise Trettis (pictured with

students) who spoke on "Discretion and Dilemmas in the Legal Profession;" Lt. Moose Mosebach (BCSO), Lt. Clayton Bray (TPD), and Lt. Pat Hartselle (RPD) who addressed ethics for police officers; Judge Jack Griesbaum who lectured about "Ethical Misconduct in the Courtroom;" and Sgt. Steve Feaster (BCSO) who talked about "Correctional Professionals: Misconduct." Lts. Mosebach, Bray and Hartselle are all UCF graduates.

Honors in the Major

UCF Cocoa has a HIM scholarship recipient this spring: **Katie Casto**, Nursing. Her HIM thesis chair is **Dr. Stephen D. Heglund** and her thesis is titled, "A State of the Science Review: Nursing Interventions to Prevent Necrotizing Enterocolitis."

College of Sciences

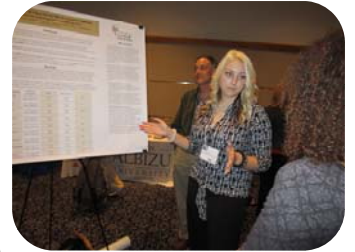


Emily Edwards' Honors in the Major thesis, *Preserving the Right to a Fair Trial: An Examination of the Prejudicial Value of Visual and Auditory Evidence in the Context of a Criminal Case*, was selected to receive the first place outstanding thesis award at the 2014 Founder's Day Honor Convocation and

she received a \$500 scholarship. Emily is mentored by **Dr. Karen Mottarella**. The study was also accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed *North American Journal of Psychology*.

In addition, **Emily Edwards** and **Dr. Mottarella** have another study, *Perceptions of the Previously Convicted: The Influence of Conviction Type and Therapy Participation*, accepted for publication in the peer reviewed *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*.

The Southern region was well represented at the Florida Undergraduate Research Conference (FURC). Nine Palm Bay Psychology students presented posters at the conference. **Dr. Shannon Whitten's** research team (**Jennifer Wilson, Michelle Esposito, Rachael Wells, Laura Weinberger, and Vincent Iula**) presented *Looking into an Open Mind: The relationship between Creativity and Figurative Language Use*.



Four individual honors theses were also presented: *Exploring Relationships among Personality Traits and Nontechnical Skills in College Students* by **John Clayton Doyle**; *Exploring The Linguistic Styles of Students With a Propensity For Alcoholism and Students with Symptoms of Depression* by **Sarah Sanders**;



The Label of Madness: The Effects of Career choice and Gender on Perceptions of Mental Illness by **Angela Vanella**; and *The CSI Effect: An Exploration on its Influence of Criminals* by **Alexandra McConnell**.

The Palm Bay campus also hosted an Undergraduate Research conference. See cover story for more information.



At the District VI American Forensics Association Qualifier Tournament, Speech Team members **Zavia Menning** and **Mairim Perez** both qualified their After Dinner Speeches for the AFA national tournament at Arizona State University. At the FIFA State Championships, held on UCF's Cocoa campus, Zavia Menning took 4th place in Dramatic Interpretation while **Hunter Menning**, was the top non-advancing novice in Prose Interpretation. Parliamentary Debate team, **Rebekah Waldorff** and **Stephen Sherbin II**, won two debates and lost two. Louisiana State University's annual Mardi Gras tournament is where Zavia Menning placed 6th in Dramatic Interpretation and 5th in Informative Speaking, and Hunter Menning placed 4th in After Dinner Speaking. Two team members, Zavia Menning and Mairim Perez have now qualified for the prestigious AFA-NIET, a national championship tournament, which will be held at Arizona State. Zavia, Mairim, and Hunter have also qualified for another national tournament held by the National Forensics Association.

See cover story on the Florida Intercollegiate Forensics Association state championship tournament hosted on the Cocoa campus.

Squires' Parli Joust Tournament



On March 21, the Palm Bay campus was visited by students and professors from four other Florida

schools: Miami Dade College, Florida Gateway College, Southeastern University and Eastern Florida State College who entered the first "Squires' Parli Joust" – a parliamentary debate tournament.

Eleven teams from the five colleges and universities competed in four preliminary rounds of debate and the top two teams competed in a final round. Topics included Florida education reform, U.S. policy in the Crimea crisis, and a metaphorical topic, "2014 is 1984." Southeastern University emerged as the tournament champion, with two teams debating the Florida "Stand-Your-Ground" law in the final round.

UCF's team of **Bryan Velasco** and **Andrew Hamaty** was the 4th place team and **Rebekah Waldorff** and **Stephen Sherbin II** were the 6th place team. Rebekah Waldorff and Bryan Velasco tied for 8th place speaker. Both UCF teams

compiled 2-2 records.

The tournament was a low-key affair for teaching/learning parliamentary debate. Judges provided oral critiques and experienced debaters helped novices.

The UCF Speech Team, representing the Nicholson School of Communication, funded and coordinated the tournament. **William Murphy**, Director of Debate at Miami-Dade College, ran the "tab room." Speech Team alumna and current UCF graduate student, **Xzondra Bergman**, assisted in administering the tournament and acting as a judge in several rounds. **John King**, **Barbara Alderman**, and **Anne Trelstad** acted as judges, as did EFSC professor, **Susan Houts**. The tournament also received extensive logistical support from **Sonya Curtis** and **Felipe Mendez** of the Southern Region administration. **Alice Weaver**, Student Services, took a several hundred wonderful photographs of all aspects of the event. It was truly a community effort from start to finish.



College of Education

Nancy Brasel hosted an Employment Seminar for the Internship II Education students on April 30 which included a guest speaker from the Brevard Public School District.

Shloe Kerness and **Nikki Nielson**, a junior Elementary Education major on the Cocoa campus and Vice President of the Cocoa FEA club, attended the National Future Educators Association conference in Minnesota in April. Both Shloe and Nikki served as judges for competitions entered by high school students from across the country who aspire to become teachers. A highlight of the trip was meeting and eating lunch at the same table as the National Teacher of the Year, Jeff Charbonneau, who was the keynote speaker. Nikki attended several workshops and is sharing ideas with other FEA Cocoa officers (President, **Jaimee Antinore**; Treasurer, **Daniel Scott**; Historian, **Elisa Murrell**) hosted a leadership conference for incoming Brevard Public Schools high school FEA club officers in June. Also, Nikki is encouraging all FEA members to attend next year's



national conference which will be hosted in Washington D.C.! Watch for fundraising campaigns this fall!

Rachel Sboto, Cocoa, took part in a study abroad program that functions as an extension of Internship II courses. It includes a 10 week internship in the Florida school system and is followed by a 3 week observation program in the United Kingdom. The England Study Abroad program will be repeated in Fall 2014. Contact [Dr. Jeff Kaplan](#) for more information.



Virginia Hamilton, Cocoa class of '91, was selected by Office Depot and Adopt-a-Classroom as one of nine teachers countrywide to be featured in their #TeachersChangeLives campaign. This campaign recognizes teachers who "go above and beyond in the classroom." Virginia teaches at Indialantic Elementary School and is currently featured on Office Depot's main website.

College of Nursing

Six seniors won scholarships with four of the six winning two scholarships each: **Richard Darling**, **Gene LaCoste**, **Abigail Williams**, **Taylor Hoover**, **Melinda Carrion**, and **Katie Casto**.

The Cocoa Student Nurse's Association participated in Relay for Life and raised \$380. Both junior and senior nursing students raised money through Pasta for Pennies, and also raised \$180 by selling small snacks and drinks to other students. The junior nursing students participated in the VA Stand Down at the Cocoa Armory. There are plans in the work for more fund raising activities over the summer semester to including volunteering for Habitat for Humanity and a back-to-school event before the fall semester begins.

Joint-Use Library

The EFSC/UCF Joint-Use Cocoa library participated in National Library Week from April 13-19. Activities included a "How the library has changed your life" drawing open to all patrons for which patrons filled out comment cards illustrating how libraries have had a positive influence in their personal, academic or work endeavors. Over 45 positive comments were received for the drawing. **Christina Perdicaro** (pictured) was the winner for the UCF basket.



magazine from 1888 through 1994 and contains high quality images one usually associates with this magazine.

SAGE Research Methods allows faculty and students to explore methods and concepts to help them design research projects, understand particular methods, identify a new method, conduct research, and report their findings. SAGE Research Methods includes content from over 720 books, dictionaries, encyclopedias, and handbooks, the entire "Little Green Book," and "Little Blue Book" series, and research-related videos. It can be used across various subject areas in the social sciences, health sciences, and more.

The EFSC/UCF Writing Center & EFSC/Joint-Use Library in Cocoa presented two formatting and citation workshops on MLA and APA.

Barbara Alderman & Andy Todd of UCF with Jill Simser & Carol Harvest of EFSC collaborated on providing these for students.

Thanks to three newly funded technology fee proposals, the UCF Libraries introduced several new databases this spring. Eighteenth Century Collection Online (ECCO) plus the National Geographic Archive, SAGE Research Methods, SAGE Knowledge, and British Periodicals Collections I & II.

ECCO, a primary source collection containing over 180,000 books, pamphlets, and treatises, covers not only history but also the social sciences, philosophy and religion, and literature, and will benefit both students and faculty in such areas as military, cultural, social, economic, diplomatic, and scientific history.

The National Geographic Archive covers every issue of the

SAGE Knowledge provides rights to 2,500 scholarly monographs in the social sciences in many subject areas.

The British Periodicals Collections I & II includes access and perpetual rights to approximately 460 journal titles and over 6 million pages, from the seventeenth through the early twentieth century.

All the sources mentioned above are available to current UCF students, faculty and staff through the UCF Libraries website: <http://library.ucf.edu/>.

For further information about the new acquisitions or other library related questions, please contact Andy Todd (433-7878) or Barbara Alderman (433-7997).

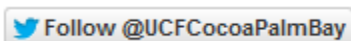
EFSC/UCF Writing Center

The Cocoa Writing Center was busy during the spring semester! **Loree Richard** and Carol Harvest visited two *History of the Theatre I* classrooms this semester to talk to students about the Writing Center, and had a Developmental Writing Class visit the Center for a presentation. Loree enjoyed judging the library essay contest, "Lives change @your library." Both Loree and Carol are looking forward to the fall semester.

The Writing Center had a total of 265 student one-on-one consultations with their two consultants.

Social Media

The UCF Cocoa/Palm Bay Facebook page now has 238 likes! Our largest Facebook post was the Most Desirable Colleges by State, UCF being the most desired for Florida, which reached 332 fans. We also played a trivia quiz for President's Day.



Direct Connect

Kim Poppert, Direct Connect Coordinator, attended Eastern Florida State College events: Welcome Back events on all 4 campuses, VFW Veteran's event in Melbourne and the Career Expo for High School Students. UCF Cocoa & Palm Bay staff joined with the EFSC Go Higher Get Accepted Campaign at Brevard Public Schools and attended 4 events and met with over 100 students. Cocoa & Palm Bay staff completed 62 visits to EFSC classrooms.

Direct Connect to UCF: Enhancing the Pathways Experience

Regional Campuses recently designed and launched the DirectConnect Enhanced Pathway project, a well-defined student path that begins with acceptance into Eastern Florida State College and ends with transfer orientation at UCF. Early interventions include a declaration of major and meetings with EFSC and UCF advisors, but the plan also branches out to social integration and career planning. Students will have opportunities to tour the campus, meet with UCF student groups, view a UCF lecture, and participate in skills workshops that include academic planning, study techniques, financial literacy, career preparation, leadership and diversity. A 'Pathway Team' comprised of local staff from EFSC and UCF will meet soon to discuss implementation of the project and additional details will be shared as the project progresses.

Enrollment Services

Enrollment Services staff have attended Go Higher – Get Accepted recruitment events with Eastern Florida State College talking with several dozen high school students about the Direct Connect to UCF program. Schools visited include Rockledge High School, Titusville High School, Space Coast Junior Senior High, Melbourne and Merritt Island High Schools.



Enrollment Services Staff have collaborated with Direct Connect and Advising Services Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 to deliver 120 class room visits across the Palm Bay, Melbourne, Cocoa, and Titusville Eastern Florida State College campuses speaking to nearly 1,849 prospective students.

Academic Advising

The Academic Advising office had 10,679 student contacts during the spring 2014 semester.

Unable to come to campus? Students can now use Skype to video conference appointments with academic advisors in Cocoa and Palm Bay. Call 321.433.7889 for Cocoa or 321.433.7838 in Palm Bay to schedule an appointment. Be sure to have your Skype username ready.



Patricia Terrill, Kim Poppert and Sheryl Schagen attended the Annual College Update Meeting. The meeting was held in the UCF Recreation and Wellness Center and representatives from each College provided updates for their degree programs. Attendees included UCF and State College advisors and administrators.

Patricia Terrill and Sheryl Schagen also attended the NACADA Webinar "LGBTQA Ally Development & Advocacy Empowerment for Academic Advisors."

UCF SOS South Semester in Review

SOS South hosted several events throughout the spring. The semester was kicked off with a Welcome Back, Cirque De SOS style. On February 10, to celebrate our big Fiesta bowl win, SOS South sponsored UCFiesta where students wore black and gold attire and had food from Moe's, tacos, chips and queso. It was a fun time for all.

The yearly event, Universal Knights, took place on March 30. SOS South distributed over 200 tickets for the event and provided bus transportation for students in Cocoa and Palm Bay.

From April 14-17, SOS South provided its sweet week, That's a Wrap party. Lunch was provided by Jersey Mike's, a candy buffet was available and students were able to get Asian inspired name design poster and unique face caricature design poster.

New SOS team members are Tiffany Baum and Whitney Watson. Welcome!



Student Services

The Student Services Office had a spring term filled with many activities and had over 7500 student contacts.

Transfer Orientation

Orientation for summer/fall 2014 is in full swing with 51 new transfer students registered to complete orientation at UCF Cocoa/Palm Bay. Student Services has had over 230 contacts regarding orientation and the transition process for summer/fall.

Academic and Career Services Workshops

Several academic and career workshops were offered for students throughout the term such as: *SARC Workshop Academic Organization, Vocabulary is Easy! Efficient Strategies to Teach Academic Vocabulary, SOS & Career Services "Graduate & Professional School Series: Part 1 & Part 2" Book Talks! Easy Steps to Implement Book Talks in Your Classroom, Getting Started: Gain experience through internship, coop & service learning, Communication with Parents: Ways to Prepare and Have an Effective Conference, SARC Workshop: Critical Thinking, and Plant the Seed: Networking Strategies, Career Workshop.*

Student Services is in the planning stages for summer and fall academic and career workshops for our current and Direct Connect students.

Student Services Staff updates

Angie Jones attended the Patrick Air Force Base Education fair on February 26 and the 8th College Access Summit on April 11. She also continues to serve as regional campuses representative on the VARC Advisory Committee and is serving on several other committees.

Angie Jones attended the VARC conference, "Student Veteran Survival Kit: Tools to Engage, Empower, Employ" and the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Florida Drive-In Conference at the UCF Orlando campus. Angie also attended the SDS sponsored program, "What's Your Ability."

Student Disability Services

Student Services staff have been diligently scheduling and proctoring exams throughout the semester for students in this region receiving academic accommodations. Over 36 exams have been proctored through the office for spring 2014.

UCF Student Services staff will begin a new initiative to strengthen the connection we have with EFSC Student Disability Services. This will include visits and tours for EFSC SDS staff, new connections with EFSC SDS clubs on all 4 campuses, and additional promotion of available UCF services. Student Services staff will also have regularly scheduled hours in EFSC SDS offices:

Cocoa: 10:30-2:00, 1st Wednesday of the month
Melbourne: 11:00-2:00, 3rd Wednesday of the month
Titusville: 10:00-1:00, 3rd Monday of the month
Palm Bay: 11:00-2:00, 2nd Wednesday of the month

Veteran's Services

UCF Cocoa & Palm Bay continued to be very busy with assisting our veteran students. For spring 2014, 58 students utilized services to certify hours for their veteran education benefits.

The VA Vital team, **Dr. Bryan Battien** and **Lloyd Duran**, held an outreach event for UCF/Eastern Florida State College on January 29. This event was for students attending UCF Cocoa and our partner Eastern Florida State College. They showcased information regarding veteran health care and education benefits, PTSD treatment, G.I. Bill, Purple Heart waiver, veteran mentoring program and other veteran related resources.

Congratulations to **Natalie Nazon** and **Ina Williams**. They have been named as recipients of the 2014 Who's Who Among Students scholarship. Natalie is a Psychology major graduating in May and has served as the UCF SOS Cocoa Team Coordinator for 2 years. Ina is also a Psychology major graduating in May, and has served as a SOS Palm Bay Team Assistant for 2 years. Natalie and Ina attended "Legacy Knight" presented by KORT in the UCF Pegasus Ballroom on April 8 to receive their award.



Who's Who Among Students is a prestigious honor given to Undergraduate and Graduate students who show

exceptional leadership, service and scholastic achievement. It is intended to recognize those outstanding UCF students graduating in the spring, summer or fall 2014. Winners are recognized throughout the campus, as well as on a national level.

Congratulations to Natalie, Ina and Dimitri our 2013-2014 SOS South team on their graduation! Over the past year, they have provided students in this region with many activities, assisted with the free printing and kept the SOS lounges clean and stocked with popcorn and coffee. Thanks for

everything you have done, and best wishes on your future endeavors!

Sue's Tech Tip

To upgrade Firefox and Plugins/Add-ons:

To Upgrade Firefox: Open Firefox, select Help on the top menu, Select About. This will start a check on your version and install a newer version. At this date, you should be using version 29.

To Upgrade Add-ons: Open Firefox, select Tools on the top menu, select Add-ons, Click on Plugins on the left, click on "Check to see if your plugins are up to date" (blue letters near top center), Install the items listed in red, uncheck applications they try to get you to install, you may have to exit before installing the next plugin. Please note that after updating the Java plugin, it may stay red, it is an error within Firefox and they are working to correct this.

New College of Business Testing Lab Opening This Summer

The new College of Business Testing Lab in room 190 on the Cocoa campus will be opening this summer. This dedicated lab will be available for students in COB videostreaming classes starting in June.



Out & About

Lisa Leininger, Program Assistant in Enrollment Services, moved to Tallahassee to work for Florida State University. Good luck in your new position, Lisa! A search is underway to fill the new vacancy.

Elaine Cruz, Office Manager for the College of Arts and Humanities and the College of Sciences, left the Cocoa campus after 14 years. Good luck, Elaine We're going to miss you!



Special note: Thanks to **Megan Haught** for her work in compiling this newsletter.